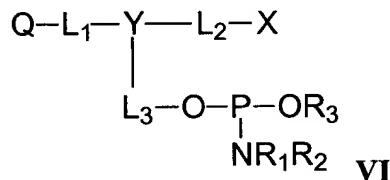


Change the text at page 17 lines 3-18 to read as follows:

Fluorescence quencher compositions of the invention include quencher-phosphoramidites according to the structure VI:



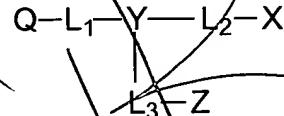
where Q is selected from structures I and II above, and Y, L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub>, and L<sub>3</sub> are as described for compound III above. Quencher-phosphoramidite reagents VI are particularly useful for the automated synthesis of labelled polynucleotides. The phosphoramidite reagents can be nucleosidic (X = nucleoside) or non-nucleosidic, according to structure VI, which can effect labelling of a polynucleotide or polypeptide with one or more protected or unprotected quencher moieties, Q. When taken separately, R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl such as methyl, ethyl, or isopropyl; C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>14</sub> aryl; or cycloalkyl containing up to 10 carbon atoms such as, morpholino. When taken together with the phosphoramidite nitrogen atom, R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> may be C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>11</sub> cycloalkyl, e.g. morpholino. R<sub>3</sub> is a phosphite ester protecting group which prevents unwanted extension of the polynucleotide. Generally, R<sub>3</sub> is stable to polynucleotide or polypeptide synthesis conditions yet is able to be removed from a synthetic polynucleotide product with a reagent that does not adversely affect the integrity of the polynucleotide or the dye. R<sub>3</sub> may be C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, such as methyl, tert-butyl, or cyanoethyl; C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>14</sub> aryl, such as phenyl or 2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethyl.

### In the Claims

Cancel claims 26-75 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 1 to read as follows:

1. (Amended) A fluorescence quencher composition having the structure:



wherein Y is selected from N and CR, where R is H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>14</sub> aryl; L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub>, and L<sub>3</sub> are independently selected from a bond, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyldiyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkoxydiyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkylaminodiyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkylamidediyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>14</sub> aryldiyl, and 1-20